

## [Mr. Earl Heath]

[900?? ?]

### FORM A Circumstances of Interview

NAME OF WORKER Frederick W Kaul L A Rollins ADDRESS Hastings, Nebr

DATE Nov. 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

1. Name and address of informant Mr. Earl Heath, Hastings, Nabr.
2. Date and time of interview Nov. 1938
3. Place of interview at our office by appointments
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant none
5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you  
none
6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc.  
did not visit home

### FORM B Personal History of Informant

NAME OF WORKER Frederick W Kaul L A Rollins ADDRESS Hastings, Nebr

DATE Nov. 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Mr. Earl Heaths Hastings, Nebr.

## Library of Congress

1. Ancestry English and German
2. Place and date of birth Burnard, Mo., April 16, 1868
3. Family wife, one son
4. Place lived in, with dates does not remember dates

Barnard, Mo. Marysville, Mo. Parkville, Mo. Straud, Okla. Prague, Okla. Merrill, Mo. St. Joe, Mo. Hastings, Nebr.

5. Education, with dates does not remember dates

Graduated grade schools, Barnard, Mo, Graduate high school Marysville, Mo. Business Course at Stausberry, Mo. Normal Training Course at Park College, Parkville, Mo.

6. Occupations-and accomplishments, with dates

Teacher, clerking, clerical work, farmer, salesman 20 years traveling Nebr., selling dealers.

7. Special skills and interests

Good salesman, greatly enjoys hunting and fishing

8. Community and religious activities none Very active Democrat Ready anytime to explain how Hoover cost hime at least \$8,000.

9. Description of informant

Height 5 foot 7 inches, Weight 160 lbs. Very active and alert. Good steady worker.

10. Other points gained in interview

## Library of Congress

none

FORM C Text of interview (Unedited)

NAME OF WORKER Frederick W Kaul L A Rollins ADDRESS Hastings, Nebr

DATE Nov. 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Mr. Earl Heath, Hastings, Nebr.

(Copies of interviews attached)

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Federal Writers' Project,

Frederick W Kaul—L A Rollins,

Hastings, Nebraska.

Source:

as related by

Mr. Earl Heath, Hastings, Nebraska Story No. 1

"When I was in the twenties, I went to Prague, Okla. Prague was a good town. We had no autos in those horse and buggy days. One of our greatest amusements was quail hunting. We would harness a team, hitch it to the buggy and drive out into the country a short distance. Then we would dismount and walk one of us on each side of the rig and shoot quails as they flew up, while the horses would draw the rig slowly along the road. Usually we quit shooting when we had bagged about a peck of the birds and go home and feather

## Library of Congress

them, when the women would prepare them. Such short quail hunts were great sport and real amusement.” Story No. 2

“The worst experience I ever had was to get lost at night. It happened near Prague, Okla. I had a date with a girl. It was on a Sunday evening. I hitched my team to my top buggy and started for her home. A rain storm came up. I had to cross a creek-like river known as the Deep river. The water in this stream was always of a reddish color. The river wasn't any bigger than our Blue river here in Adams county. Of course I got soaked. My new suit was a mess. It was dark as pitch. I drove on a ways, when I began to realize that I was lost. The team stopped near a building which I found to be an old ice house. I had a few dry matches in my match case. I left my team stand and walked about looking for a road light a match now and then. It seemed to get darker every time I had ignited a match. I couldn't find a road. I started to go back to the team and buggy. I found that I had lost my direction back. I couldn't find them. It seemed as though I had been walking in a circle, then again it seemed as though I might have been walking away farther from them

2

My matches were all gone. My clothes were wet. I was lost. My team and buggy were lost. It was pitch dark. I am telling you, I was in a terrible fix. There I stood, lost in a dark rainy night, covered with wet clothes without team or rig. I didn't know what to do. To make things worse it was pouring down all the while.

After two hours I heard noise. It sounded as though something rattled. Believe me my ears were at attention to await a reoccurring of this rattle for I had determined that it might have been caused by the rings on the harness of my horses. This proved to be the case and eventually helped me relocate and find them. I mounted the rig and drove on. After some time I spied a dim light in a distance. It was the light of a cattleman's shack. He took me in and listened to my never-to-be-forgotten experiences of that night. Early the next morning I drove back to Prague of course without having seen my girl. I'll never forget that night.”

Story No. 3

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"At Prague, Okla., I worked in the postoffice during the day and helped out as clerk at the bank at night. The people of the country were good, hard workers, mostly farmers, some ranchers. They had their fun when they came to town. There was a dance every Saturday night. There was lots of drinking but few got real drunk. There was an Anti-Horse-Thief-Association here. All horses of its members were branded in the flanks. The association had a record of all branded horses. If a man was found with a stolen horse his trial was held at once by members of the association. If the thief was [found?] guilty, he was done away with, either shot or lynched and horse returned to the owner. " [??]

When the railroad was built through Prague, work gangs of 50 to 75 men would come to town when they had been paid. It meant, good business for the local saloon. The bartender would set 'em up to the whole gang. Then he would point to two big fellows of his picking and say, "You and You."

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This meant the exhibit of a free for all fight for the amusement of the whole gang, When the fight was over and the crowd had laughed it off between drinks, the keeper would repeat, "You and You," picking another pair to fight for the amusement of the crowd. The drinking and social fighting would continue throughout the night, when toward morning the gang would depart in pairs for their bunks at the railroad construction quarters." Story No.

4

"My biggest excitement happened at Straud, Okla., not far from Sprague Okla., when the bank was robbed in July 6. 1901.

I was clerk at the bank. The night before, the boys needed crap money. I loaned them a good sum. The next morning two men entered the banks pointed guns at me, who was alone at the bank. They made me lie down and tied me. They then took all the money, except one 5¢ piece.

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The money that the crap players had borrowed the night before was saved for the boys paid it back as usual. So the robbers only got \$8000. “

Note: Mr. Heath had no titles for the above stories. Said “Just things that happened, that seem only yesterday to me.”